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FATHER'S DAY

This year Father's Day and Pentecost are celebrated on the same day - June 15. One of our readers who wished to remain anonymous sent in this note for consideration.

When I was a boy we used to ride the subway to church every Sunday. There were five of us who traveled with our father in the New York City underground. I will never forget the day he left us on the train. We had stopped at the station where we transferred from one train to another. As the doors of the "A" train opened, Pop ran across the platform leaving all of us behind. He had never before done such a thing.

As we raced behind him in near panic, we soon saw the meaning of his apparent abandonment. The "GG" train was about to leave the station without us, the conductor pressing feverishly on the lever. But there was Pop, standing in the only gap holding open the doors for us to follow. And so we safely boarded, one and all, under the wings of our father's outstretched arms.

In the same way, Jesus has left us behind to prepare a place where we can be together forever. But God requires that in faith we run after Him, following Him where we cannot see, and believing in Him in situations we cannot explain or fully understand.

When Pop bolted through the subway doors, we didn't know what he was doing, but we knew enough to follow him. And Pop knew we would follow. For children there is no other choice. With Christians it is the same. We may not know why Christ has not yet returned or when He will return, but we know He will. His ways are mysterious to us, but we know Him to be faithful and dependable. One who loves us, is true and unchanging. He will keep His promise to come again. Ours is to be watchful, faithful, and ready, never doubting that

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Пятидесятница.

(Троицынъ день).

Тропарь. *Благословенъ еси, Христе Боже нашъ, Иже премудры ловцы явлей, ниспославъ имъ Духа Святаго, и тѣми уловлей вселенную, Человѣколюбче, слава Тебѣ.*

Кондакъ. *Егда снисшедъ языки слія, раздѣляше языки Вышній; егда же огненные языки раздаяше, въ соединеніе вся призва: и согласно славимъ Всесвятаго Духа.*

PENTECOST
(Trinity Day)

Tropar. *Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who has revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou did draw the world into Thy net, O Lover of man, Glory to Thee!*

Kondak: *When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the all-holy Spirit!*

TWO GREAT DAYS

We find two great Holy Days on the calendar in June: the Ascension of our Lord on June 5 and Pentecost on June 15. The days come 40 and 50 days after the greatest Holy Day – Pascha/Easter. Both days are fully and vividly described in the New Testament. We can read about the Ascension in Acts 1:1-12 and Luke 24:36-43; about the Pentecost in Acts 2:1-11 and John 7:37-52,8:12.

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THE WHYS OF PENTECOST

Unless we know the answer to the whys, Pentecost remains in our minds as the Holy Day where the service is extra long and we spend, what seems forever, on our knees. We know it has to be something special because the church is decorated with many green branches and flowers. Why all this?

Pentecost goes by many names. A few of them are: Green Sunday, Trinity Sunday, Whitsunday, Zeleny Svyatke, Pyatedesatney.

We look at icons for this day, and we find them familiar and yet very different. They all have the same number of Apostles but some say the missing Judas was replaced with the figure of Matthias who was chosen to replace him and some say it is St. Paul. They all have a tongue of fire depicted above their heads. Why the tongue? A tongue because they were to speak the Word of God to all peoples. What differs in the icons we examined is what is depicted in the midst of the Apostles. This varies. We have noted the figure of the Mother of God, the open Bible, and a crowned figure holding a cloth spread over his arms. They are all symbolic.

Why is the church decorated with green branches and flowers? Why was our Orthodox neighbor's house decorated with a huge green branch? The fresh, new growth symbolizes the refreshing of our souls through the action of the Holy Spirit.

But why is Pentecost so important? We remember hearing something about the Birthday of the Christian Church and that the Holy Spirit is involved in someway. It is both of these. It ranks among the great Holy Days because it commemorates not only the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and disciples but also the results and effects of that event. It marked the completion of the work of redemption through the fullness of the grace of the Church and

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CHRONOLOGY

JUNE 2003

This copy was mailed May 17.

DIED: Pani Anna Yurcisin, wife of Fr. John Yurcisin, in Johnstown, PA.

MEMBERS ARE SOUGHT for the Department of Religious Education of the OCA. Contact Matushka Fran Vansuch at 610/866-6057.

A CHICKEN BARBECUE with a flea market, bake sale and opportunity to tour the St. Tikhon Monastery/Seminary grounds is set for Saturday, August 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For info contact: John Paluch 570/937-4411. Sponsored by Society of Friends of St. Tikhon's.

A GOLF TOURNAMENT on August 16 will be held in White Haven, PA. Contact: Berny Golublewski at 570/825-4780.

ST. TIKHON'S SUMMER CAMP in So. Canaan, PA will run from July 6-12. Contact: Martin Paluch, Box 130, So. Canaan, PA 18459 or call 570/937-4686 or email :depa@socantel.net

THE CHURCH MESSENGER, 312 Garfield St., Johnstown, PA 15906 had a photo in the 27 April issue which might be of interest to people who remember the new church being built in Uzhorod, Ukraine. It depicts the tens of thousands of Orthodox lined up eight deep on the street in front of the bell tower waiting for their Pascha foods and baskets to be blessed. Many of our tour participants had donated to the ongoing construction of the church near the hotel and watched for any news with interest.

AN ECUMENICAL THEME PARK is being planned for Moscow. Bibleland, which would recreate sites of the Holy Land, is being considered by a group of businessmen.

TWO HUGE BELLS replacing those destroyed by the Communists in 1930 have been hoisted onto the belfry of the Monastery in Sergeiev Posad (Zagorsk), located about 35 miles north of Moscow. Weighing 35.5 tons and 27 tons, the bells have been named as is the Orthodox custom. They are named after St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelizer and were cast at a cost of approximately a million U.S. dollars.

ONLY ABOUT 30 COPIES REMAIN of the video of clips of the concerts of the Don Cossack Singers and Dancers of America, directed by George Margitich. The sound is superb on this 140-minute tape obtainable from Harry Nalesnik, PO Box 1285, Montclair, NJ 07042. Send check for $18 to Harry Nalesnik. Order now to insure receiving a copy, as it will not be reissued.

THE ICON OF THE PENTECOST on the first page was taken from a book by P.M. Vlastov printed in Moscow in 1891. The icon was in the original Christ the Saviour Cathedral, which was destroyed by the communists in 1932.

TROUBLING is the vote taken by the European Parliament, which calls for the opening of the Orthodox Monastic Republic of Mount Athos in Greece to women. The resolution cited the violation of sexual equality. Meanwhile, the Greek government stresses that a special status was agreed to when Greece joined the European Union. Women have been banned from Mount Athos for more than 1000 years.

BOTH ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, 15 W. 25th St., and St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral, 15 E. 97th St. in New York City, are under renovation. St. Sava was built as Trinity Chapel of the Episcopal Church in the 19th century and became an Orthodox place of worship in 1943.

STATUES AND ICONS were removed from St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church in Jamaica, NY in the late '50s. The parishioners were polled and unanimously wanted them restored. They had a list of 500 saints from which to choose as well as four titles of the Virgin Mary. To be placed in the church are St. Anthony of Padua, St. Therese of Lisieux, Archangels Gabriel and Michael and Raphael, the Holy Family, Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

PATRIARCH ALEXEI SAYS "This is madness" to a movement in Russia to canonize Russia's first tsar, Ivan the Terrible and Grigory Rasputin. This drive has been going on for several years.

A 1581 BIBLE printed in the pioneer press of Ivan Fyodorov was brought to a city museum in Sererodvinsk, Russia. It was being sold for about $100 U.S. It is valued at $270,000. There are about 250 copies of the first printed copies of the Bible. According to tradition, the book is dated April 12, 7469 (from the creation of the world).

IN THE U.S. THE NEW PRIVACY ACT makes it difficult for priests to visit or minister to the sick in hospitals and nursing homes. While in Russia, a new agreement was made allowing priests to visit hospitals and minister to the sick.

THE ONLINE ORTHODOX CHAPEL on web site http://www.goarch.org/en/chapel. features live and pre-recorded broadcasts of liturgical services. Perfect way for shut-ins to hear and witness the Divine Liturgy.

DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING the forming of a Russian Diocese within the Orthodox Church of America patterned after the affiliation by the Roumanians and Albanians has generated much criticism.

EFFORTS TO OPEN HALKI SEMINARY in Turkey, which was closed in 1971, have failed. The Greek Orthodox Seminary is located on an island near Istanbul. This is an involved situation, since the Patriarch of Constantinople must be a Turkush citizen. Where will the next Patriarch be educated?

AMID ALL THE BAD NEWS concerning the destroying of churches in Kosovo and the difficulty clergy have to get to places of worship, many times having to be escorted by armed guards, it was good to read that 600 people were baptized in Zicha Monastery on Christmas Eve.

(Continued from front page)

FATHER'S DAY

He will do just as He has promised.

How fortunate we are if we were blessed with such a Pop and such faith in God the Father.

(Continued from front page)

TWO GREAT DAYS

Shortly before His Trial and crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples that although He would arise from the dead, He would not stay with them for very long. He said that He would go away but He promised them that He would send them a Comforter - the Holy Spirit.

And that did happen. After He left them by ascending into heaven, they followed His command and went to Jerusalem to wait for further word from Him. Then they got a message in such a dramatic way that it was no mistaking Who it had come from! Ten days they waited and then the Holy Spirit came! With tongues of fire and accompanied by the sound of rushing wind, the Holy Spirit descended upon them where they had waited together.

This was the beginning of the Church and the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy of Joel (2:28) that "it shall come to pass that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh..."

Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit, and He did! Jesus promised us that He would come again, and He will! Jesus promised Eternal Life for those who follow Him ... and it's up to us if we want that promise fulfilled.

(Continued from front page)

THE WHYS OF PENTECOST

the gift of faith to all nations and people.

But the biggest why remains. Why do vespers have to follow the Divine Liturgy without a break. Can't we even have the coffee hour in between? The answer is no. The reason the Holy Fathers decreed that the Vespers were to follow the Divine Liturgy without a break is that they felt that with the people newly-communed, they were ready to receive the Holy Spirit with a clean soul.

The three times we are asked to kneel and listen to the prayers of St. Basil also make sense if we examine the prayers. They are distinct. They give a summary of Orthodox doctrine and the whole story of salvation and what God has done for mankind since the creation of the world. In the last prayer, we pray for our deceased parents, family members and all in the faith so that God gives their souls rest in the place of everlasting peace.

Yes, the prayers are long and our knees can get sore, but ask for a copy of the prayers so that you can follow along and you will be greatly enriched. Perhaps, someone in the congregation can run off copies which can be distributed and then be collected and saved to be used year after year.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Doroheyah Tyotya Mareeyah,

Yak tam kolo vas. Tooth shitko OK. Allee yah mala takee experience!

Nasha parafeeah mala hoditchnee picnic pered petropavelskoho posta. Bull barz shumneeh day ee me decided to go. Me came to picnic grounds ee kupeelee teekehtea. Many people were there. Yah veedeelah mnoho friendsee, krayahnee, rodeenah, kumee ee kumovee, svatee ee svatovee.

Me then became takee hungry eeh poshlee kupetee shoska eestee. Prodavalee hot dogsee, perohee, hamburgee, ee kobasoo with kapusta ee skwarkee. EE they having tam barooh dlya hlopsee deh selling peevo ee soduy.

Me dobroh yelee ee malee troshka peetee. The orchestra began to hratee. Bull takee excitement. Yah hotcheelah tansovatee, no me husband don't want to do anything but stoyatee kolo bareeh peetee peevo ee talking. Yah poking him ee poking him noh ohn don't pay any attention to me. Yah dostala take mad nah yeho zhe yah kazh yehmu zhe yak ohn neh hotchee tansovatee toh yah poyduy sama.

Yah peeshla kol dance floor e nashla kumu ee me dancing one after another. Yah mala takee good time zhe yah zabulah za me staroho husbanda. Orchestra hralee polkas ee chardashe ee shitkee nashee krayovee tansee. Yah dance every one.

Kolee orchestra bral break yah realized zhe yah looked ee smelled bad. Bullo tephlo, me deoderant gave out, me hairdo pallo, ee me slip strap broke. Yah take sweatee zhe yah decided to go, yak ohnee saying here in America, yak me next door neighbor says, to freshen up.

Yah bulla few feet ot dance floor kolee yah heard a man's voice say: "Pardon me, are you Hanya." Yah turned around ee almost passed out. Tam stoyeet mee staree fryear. Ohn looking takee handsome, takee clean ee collected ah yah feeling ee looking yak stara reksaw. EE yah stinkee besides. Yah nez nah what yah gotta do.

Noh yah dumam kinda fast, ee yah say to him zhe yah neh Hanya, noh Hanya me poveela just a couple of minutes ago zhe ohna going to do some shopping and preede back in one hour.

Yah peshlah home tak fast, got cleaned up, brala me dobree perfume ot kufreekah, nadeelah novee dress, got dolled up ee peeshla back nah peeknek. Yah taka nervous, me heart tak pounding, yah getting all sweatee again. Yah dumam ee dumam what yah going to say ee yak yah going to act kolee me staree fryear preedey kolo menah.

Yah finally got to dance floor ah tam stoyeet me husband ee kazhee me: "Anna, I could have swaore that you had another dress on when we came to the picnic."

Yah nech yehmu neh kazhu noh yah looking zah fryearah. And there he is, noh ohn meneh yestyek neh veedit.

Mala takee good time.
Budtey zdrovee
Hanya.

THE WEEKEND

Note that Jesus chose to perform many of His miracles on Saturday, which was then the day set aside as a day of rest, and for contemplation of God. When Jesus was condemned for repeatedly healing on this day, He made it clear that God's day was not to be wasted in idleness but used for active celebrating by gathering to pray, doing good deeds, and for strengthening our souls.

Sunday, the day of Resurrection, is not a day to spend sitting around the house mesmerized in front of the television or going shopping; it is the day to go to church, to pray, and to reinvigorate our lives. Sunday is intended to be an active commemoration of the Lord.

SAW NEED FOR CATHECHISTS

Monk Priest Nicholas (Kasatkin) arrived in June 1861 from Russia to bring the Orthodox faith to Japan. This was quite a task, as the law of the country stated that foreign missionaries were to be deported and any Japanese convert faced a possible death sentence. Encouraged by Bishop Innocent, he worked toward his missionary dream, he began to prepare himself by studying the Japanese language. It took him seven years to master the difficult language. During this time, he also studied the history and culture of Japan, its mythology, literature and religious philosophy. He even attended the sermons of Buddhist preachers and storytellers to get an authentic appreciation of the Japanese religious mind.

Heeding one of the important principles on Orthodox Missions, he based his work on making Orthodoxy truly indigenous rather than a Russian transplant. His knowledge of the language made the scriptures and liturgical texts accessible to the Japanese. His familiarity with the culture enabled him to try to send down deep, lasting and nourishing roots into Japanese society. He worked tirelessly listening, absorbing and translating.

But he needed help in his work. He felt that catechists were the answer. Here are his instructions:

> The evangelists shall be organized as a deliberate body. The evangelists shall teach Christian truth to other people while still continuing to study it for themselves.
>
> There shall be two kinds of meetings. In the first, the evangelists, together with others who know the essential doctrines desire further study, shall meet to read and explain the New Testament. Such meetings shall be twice a week, the evangelists taking turns in conducting them. None of the number shall fail to attend; if any person is unavoidably prevented from coming, he ought before the next meeting, to learn from someone else what was said.
>
> The second meeting is for the benefit of those - whether men, women or children - who are commencing to study Christian doctrine. The evangelists shall explain to them the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. This meeting shall be held twice a week...
>
> Besides conducting the two kinds of meetings already mentioned, the evangelists shall go about the city every day trying to win new inquirers. If among those interested are persons unable to attend the meetings, the evangelists shall go to their houses in order to explain the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments.
>
> This is to be regarded as of prime importance and shall be done even if, for lack of time, the evangelist is obliged to omit the meeting for reading the New Testament. When persons have thoroughly learned the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and are established in the faith, they shall be presented to the priests for baptism."

One hundred years after St. Nicholas arrived in Japan and started his work, we visited in Japan and had occasion to see the effectiveness of the catechist program and how it had evolved. We took a train from Tokyo to a small village Orthodox Church. There we left our shoes at the entrance and entered the small, beautiful church. The congregation stood in orderly lines throughout the service. When it came time for the sermon, they went out to an anteroom and brought back folding chairs and sat down to hear the lesson.

While the clergy were communing, a catechist stood before the first row of chairs and gave the most spirited lesson I have ever witnessed. Although I did not understand his words, I was drawn into the lesson by his magnificent hand and body language. The lesson and experience are both vivid in my mind.

It is unknown at this time how much the instructions of St. Nicholas have been altered or how closely they are followed, but they contain many important suggestions we could follow.

WINTER'S GRACE

Sometimes we fail our spouse, our parents, our friends, our children, our church. Temptations come our way, and in weakness in peer pressure we give in to them. Perhaps we were frightened or unclear about what we were to do. Maybe we were not focused on our goals or were emotionally unprepared. Sometimes it may seem that our emotions have just run away with us. We feel overwhelmed. But whatever the case may be, we really mess up.

Then the feelings of remorse get to be too much for us. We may feel like giving up, that we will never be able to change and will always be conquered by our anger, envy, jealousy, lust or pride. We, however, are flooded with a sense of shame. We may weep tears over our failures and continued intransigence.

If only we had a delete key that we could use to erase certain passages of our life and write them over again!

This month we honor the Saints Peter and Paul. We may have a cursory knowledge of their lives, but St. Peter's failure and subsequent rehabilitation encourages us. St. Peter was the leader of the apostles and one of Jesus' best friends. If there was ever anyone who should have been faithful, it was he. If St. Peter's failure is the clearest indictment of the pervasive sinfulness of humanity, then his restoration is the profoundest indication of the depth of God's forgiveness.

There are times of challenge and stress for which we need to be mentally and spiritually prepared. Soldiers must be trained for battle. They must have habits formed so that even when they are too terrified to think, they can still do the right things.

A ballplayer cannot perform well on game day without having practiced, neither can we perform dutifully and resist temptations if we have not prepared ahead of time through the creation of holy habits.

Prayer helps us to keep focused and to overcome the temptations which make us take actions which we are ashamed of and which cause hurt to those we love.

* * * * * *

Bishop Irenaeus explains the basic means for parents to teach their child obedience. First accustom them to obey you because it is the will of God. Do not tolerate obstinacy or impudence towards anyone. Do not give them everything they want. Accustom them to self-control, moderation, and temperance. Demand that they do what you say exactly and immediately. Be consistent. You should only have to speak once. But never tell them to do something that exceeds their ability. Parents should not oppose each other concerning the children. Take care to retain your child's respect for you. Finally, never forget to invoke God's blessing on this work.

RADIO OUTREACH MINISTRY

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all things that I have commanded you;..." Matthew 28:19-20

When Orthodox Christians came to this country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they sought refuge in their own ethnic communities. Now more than a century later, people are doing just the opposite. Economics plays an important part in a person's life as one often leaves home and family in order to follow his or her career. Not only may a person be far from family but a great distance from an Orthodox Church as well.

Outreach ministries are becoming a new and important component in a growing number of parishes. As churches "reach out" to people in their community, they attract a variety of new members: Orthodox who have relocated to the area, people who had once been Orthodox and had drifted away from the Church, and others who have just been introduced to the Faith. For parishes with dwindling memberships, this can be an important ministry.

Although outreach can take a variety of forms, radio programs can be an excellent way to let people in your area know about your church and the Orthodox Faith. Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Marblehead, Ohio, is proof of that.

About four years ago, parish president Wayne Joseph Golob was listening to an Orthodox radio program from Toledo and wondered if his parish would consider such a project. There were a number of religious programs being broadcast in their area, but none were Orthodox. After discussing the idea with his pastor, Fr. Pavel Soucek, they contacted several priests who had experience with radio ministry. Among them was Fr. Basil Stroyen, who is still gratefully remembered for his advice and encouragement.

Wayne Joseph then met with the management of local radio station WLEC 1450 am in Sandusky. "The Light of Orthodoxy" first aired on St. Thomas Sunday, April 22, 2001, at 8:30 AM.

After exploring the availability of prerecorded tapes, it was decided that the outreach committee would produce their own programs. Each week, Father Pavel supplies the text, and Wayne Joseph announces, selects the hymns, and tapes the programs for airing.

The broadcasts follow a regular format each Sunday which includes mention of the following: the Troparion, Kondakion, Prokimenon, and the Epistle and Gospel readings for that Sunday, saints commemorated and holy days observed on both the Old and New Calendars. Topics dealing with some aspect of the Orthodox Faith are also presented to inform and inspire listeners.

Throughout the half-hour, a variety of hymns are played. Many non-Orthodox listen to the broadcast each Sunday, and their positive comments about the programs, and especially the hymns, are very encouraging.

Six months after the programs began, some opposition to renew their contract arose within the parish. Realizing the importance of this ministry, three parishioners pledged to sponsor the programs each week. They, along with a commercial sponsor, are remembered with special thanks on the air every Sunday. In addition, Father Pavel and Matushka Paula provide continued encouragement and support in their commitment to outreach.

In the past two years, Holy Assumption has gained thirteen new members, and more people continue to find this parish community of about fifty people. With many potential new members in the area, parishioners continue to look for ways to reach out to them. As Wayne Joseph Golob expresses his view of the role of Orthodox Christians: "We are all called to be an evangelist. Instead of being quiet and blending in, we need to share our Faith with those around us."

For more information on outreach and starting your own radio ministry, please contact:

"Light of Orthodoxy"
c/o Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
110 E. Main Street
Marblehead, Ohio 43440
(419) 798-4591
e-mail: **soucek@cross.net**

Margaret Pysarchyk

* * * * * *

To silence gossip, don't repeat it.

EIGHT TONES

What are the eight tones of the church which we hear on Sunday morning when the Tropar and Kondak are said to be sung in such and such a tone. They are found in a book called the Octoechos, which contain all the hymns of the church services and divides them into eight groups of melodies, which are called "tones." These are sung on an eight-week cycle; the first cycle starting with St. Thomas Sunday, which is the 2nd Sunday of Easter. The cycle includes the Sunday and the week following. The cycles keep rotating.

Historians believe that tones were founded in the Jewish liturgical chants. The early Christians adapted them but since they were sung by many groups and never written, confusion reigned. In the 3rd century, St. John of Damascus systematized them into eight categories with many subgroups. These groups of melodies known as tones ranged from the joyful to the grave. Many Holy Days break the cycle and use an appropriate tone.

The discussion on the eight tones led to the significance of the number eight in Christianity. And then to what is the eighth day?

The number eight was, for ancient Christianity, the symbol of the Resurrection for it was on the day after the Sabbath, and so the eighth day, that Christ rose from the tomb. Furthermore, the seven days of the week are the image of the time of this world, and the eighth day of the everlasting. Sunday is the liturgical commemoration of the eighth day, at the same time a memorial of the Resurrection and a prophecy of the world to come. (J. Danielou)

St. Augustine in his Bk 22 of the City of God writes:

"an eighth day and eternal day, consecrated by the Resurrection of Christ... There we shall rest and see, see and love, love and praise."

LIGHTER MOMENT

It was the opening of baseball season and the students were asked to write a composition on the sport of sports – baseball.

Most of them sat with their heads bent, writing away, but one boy kept looking out the window. Then, just when the teacher announced that time was up, he quickly wrote:

"No game today, called on account of rain."

SOBORNOST

(The Donatist were a very strict sect started by Donatus, the 4th century Bishop of Carthage, located in North Africa. They taught that only their baptism and ordination was valid and that theirs was the only authentic Christian religion.)

In order to solve the Donatist controversy in Africa, Constantine thought it proper to use the conciliar institution in an attempt to reconcile the estranged group. "I have decided," he writes to Pope Mitiades, "that Caecilian himself, with ten of the bishops who apparently are accusing him, and ten others regarded by him as essential to his case, shall sail for Rome. He will be granted a hearing in such conditions as you will judge proper under the most sacred law... Such is the regard I pay to the lawful Catholic Church that I desire you to leave no schism or division of any kind anywhere." (Eusebius, Eccl. Hist. 10, 5, 15-22).

The particular function of the bishop, then consists both in being the pastor of his local church and in carrying the responsibility for the universal communion of all the churches. This is the theological meaning of episcopal conciliarity. It is an ontologically required element in the episcopal consecration, which presupposes the gathering of all the bishops of a given province, representing the one episcopate of the one universal Church. Episcopal conciliarity is in the theology of sobornost, the highest witness to the apostolic truth, the most authentic authority in doctrinal and canonical matters. Meyendorff emphatically states that:

No local church possesses the exclusive privilege of preserving apostolicity, although, in fact, some churches did enjoy more favorable historical conditions and received particular **charismata.** These special gifts were then used to help others, and were to be "received" or recognized as such by all the other churches. After the third century, the most normal way of maintaining and manifesting unity in faith was found in the council of bishops who, together with the people, defined the faith which was then "received" by those churches which were not represented at a given council. In the process, the guiding principle was always obedience to the Spirit of God, not to majority opinion established by democratic vote.

Fr. Michael Dahulich

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who made a wedding feast before giving the wrong bride to Jacob?
2. Where was the first wedding Jesus attended?
3. Who, according to John, is the bride of Christ?
4. Who made a seven-day marriage feast but never married the woman he intended?
5. Who gave the bride away at the first wedding?
6. How did Boaz obtain Ruth as his wife?
7. What did Jacob have to do to marry Rachel?

1. Laban (Genesis 29:22-25)
2. Cana (John 2:1-11)
3. The church (Revelation 19:7-9)
4. Samson (Judges 14:10-20)
5. God (Genesis 2:22-24)
6. He purchased the property of Naomi, her mother-in-law (Ruth 4:3-4)
7. Serve Laban for 14 years (Genesis 29:16-30)

FUND

POSTAGE: Alex Lezinsky, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Rusinko, Joseph Horoschuk, Annastazia Zahirsky, Mary Kinn, Steve and Leonora Evancho, Michael Obmascik, Olga Bahleda, Michael Mitchell, Johanna Pleska, Mary Ann Macko, Catherine Haley, Lillian Lovchuk in memory of parents, V. Rev. Averky and Matushka Marie Bondarchuk, Theodore Hamilla in memory of Chaplains V. Rev. Basil W. Stroyen, USAF and V. Rev. John Kivko, USA.
MISSION: Alex Lezinsky
ALASKA: JoAnn Dorroll, Ethel Watlock
ALASKA AND MISSION: Michael Obmascik, Joseph Horoschak, Paul Stuchal, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Rusinko, Teresa Plefka-Petroski for health of Anna Plefka and in memory of Joseph Plefka.

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God's forgiveness is the door to a new beginning.

Undique (from everywhere)

"And He will come again to judge the living and the dead." We say this each time we repeat the Nicene Creed. When? Orthodox have not been much concerned about when. As we read in St. Mark 13:32: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man...only the Father."

Ecclesiastes is the source of many familiar bits of wisdom. We use some of these expressions: "Cast your bread upon the waters." "Nothing under the sun is new." "Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity."

Homeschooling is gaining in popularity in this country. If parents can homeschool their children in general knowledge subjects, why can't they do the same in Orthodox Christianity? It is certainly time for a curriculum to be prepared by Orthodox so that children can learn Christian discernment to the news and the world around them.

The liturgical day begins in the evening. Some place it at sunset.

What is this wondrous light that shines in the depths of our hearts, filling the dark recesses with radiance beyond all telling? This light is our assurance th[at] God is with us. This light is our assurance and guarantee that love is stronger than hatred, that beauty is more powerful than ugliness, that goodness will prevail over evil. "Upon you the Lord shines and over you appears God's glory." Isaiah 60:2.

On some icons of the twelve apostles or of the Pentecost, we find St. Matthias or St. Paul take the place of Jadas.

The Mother of God
After the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, His Mother remained in Jerusalem. In Acts 1:13-14, she is mentioned by name as being present in the Upper Room awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. The only other names that are given are those of the Apostles.

Green Sunday is another name given to Pentecost by the Slavs.

St. Dorotheos of Gaza said: "Who hated sin more than the saints? But they did not hate the sinners at the same time nor condemn them, nor turn away from them... They suffered with them admonished them, comforted them, gave them remedies, as with sickly membe[rs] and did all they could to heal them." This was St. Dorotheos' answer to those who say they hate the sin but not the sinner.



Editor's Notes

Christ is Risen!

Indeed, He is Risen!

It is interesting to note that as the Church so gently eased us into the Lenten season and then into the Holy Feast of Pascha, so it is easing us into our regular spiritual life. We celebrate Pascha with lessening fervor until Pentecost, and then we leave the Sundays of Easter behind and go into the Sundays after Pentecost.

The season of Pascha, which could have been a very difficult one for me, as I had to rearrange so much , was made joyful in a new way by my brother, sister, nieces and nephews and by the many friends who called me, sent me letters and cards, and even sent me the traditional Pascha food, which I would have had to do without. Yes, readers, the world is full of good people, and I have been blessed to know so many of them.

I remember how prevalent the color red was in the Easter season during our many years of living in Germany. Not only red eggs, but red candles and even red tulips and red peonies were found everywhere. One of my memory treasures are red egg-shaped salt and pepper shakers, which I have stored with my Easter basket cover.

A new law was passed in the U.S. in April which is called the Privacy Law. You may have noticed that your statement from the bank has included it and you have had to sign a paper at the medical offices that you have been informed about it. The effects of it are wide-reaching. It means that your priest will not be informed or cannot get information about any sick person in the hospital or nursing home. Even upon inquiring, he cannot be told whether they are or are not patients or what room they are in or their hospital phone number. Your priest depends upon you to inform him of any admittance or even the room occupied.

When I was a child, at the beginning of several summers, we watched a huge tent go up on a vacant lot on the outskirts of town. We knew that it was the time that Brother Burg would come to hold tent meetings and hope to convert the mostly Orthodox and Catholic inhabitants who lived in the vicinity. Our families allowed us to attend these meetings, as it kept us out of mischief. We were intrigued by the blackboard and felt board used to teach us the Bible stories. We also learned many "Protestant" hymns. One that I remember so clearly is the one which starts "brighten the corner where you are." In conversation with many friends who have been disturbed by the problems in the church, I have mentioned these words. We can do something by "brightening the corner where we are." A quasi - informal alliance is forming. This is positive action! Each using their own talent.

God Be With You,

Matushka Nina Stroyen

PRESS FUND

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MAY GOD ACCEPT YOUR INTENTIONS.



It was hard to pick out a recipe from the huge 637 page cookbook put out by the church in Herkimer, NY. I finally decided on one from the "Thyme is the Essence" chapter, as it is perfect for a picnic or outdoor barbecue. You can make it earlier, keep it warm in the crockpot or in a pot on the grill.

The cookbook entitled Recipes Bless the Heart and Home has a separate 31-page chapter for ethnic recipes and two small chapters of Christmas and Easter recipes. Order the book for $25 postage paid from SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, 305 Main Road, Herkimer, NY 13350. My favorite chapter was the vegetable one. The recipes are presented in alphabetical order.

CROCKPOT PORK

4-6 lbs. pork loin
salt
pepper
2 bottles barbecue sauce (two different kinds works best)
2 cans cola soda

Place pork loins in a pan with salt and pepper and a little water in 325° oven for two hours. Remove from oven and trim off fat and slice approximately 1/2 to 3/4 inch slices. Place in crockpot with barbecue sauce and two cans of soda. Cook two hours.

(Submitted by Andie Shaver)

LIGHTER MOMENT

Mary recently met her friend and asked her how she felt. Her friend answered: "My left arm hurt me, and so did my right foot, my neck and my back. Then I went to the doctor and he tapped my knee with a little hammer."

Mary asked: "So how are you now?"

"Now my knee hurts."

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PENTECOST PRAYER

"Why a Holy Spirit? Why can't I just talk to God directly?" This was the question an inquirer asked, trying to understand the grand Mystery of the Trinity. There is no such thing as a silly question. To understand we must ask.

But how do we explain the most Mysterious in the Mystery of the Trinity, since He hides Himself so well? It is not so hard to imagine the Father because of His very name, even though the image that arises of a good and powerful Old Man does not really describe the One Who is the Source of Divinity. The Son made it easy for us to imagine Him because He became a historic Person well described in the Gospels.

But how do we describe Someone Who appears as a Bird, as a Flame or as Wind? It is the nature and the mission of the Holy Spirit to not show Himself , but rather to show, proclaim and represent the Son, just as the Son represents the Father.

Perhaps it would be best to simply say that the very act of putting this question is a sign that the Spirit is already present in a mysterious way in the one who questions. Without Him there would be neither questions nor answers regarding the immense mysteries of life and the universe. The Holy Spirit is God who lives in us - in each being who asks, who answers and who tries to understand and live the mysteries of existence. As the prayer of Pentecost puts it, He is the One who is everywhere present and fills all things.

Rev'd Ihor George Kutash

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St. Catherine's name was Dorothea before she was baptized.

Home Bible Reading Schedule

JUNE 2003

1	**Acts 16:16-34**	17	Romans 1:1-7, 13-17
2	Acts 17:1-15	18	Romans 1:18-27
3	Acts 17:19-28	19	Romans 1:28-2:9
4	Acts 18:22-28	20	Romans 2:14-29
5	Acts 1:1-12	21	Romans 1:7-12
6	Acts 19:1-8	**22**	**Hebrews 11:33-12:2**
7	Acts 20:7-12	23	Romans 2:28-3:18
8	**Acts 20:16-18, 28-36**	24	Romans 4:4-13
9	Acts 21:8-14	25	Romans 4:13-25
10	Acts 21:8-14	26	Romans 5:10-16
11	Acts 23:1-11	27	Romans 5:17-6:2
12	Acts 25:13-19	28	Romans 3:19-26
13	Acts 27:1-44	**29**	**Romans 2:10-16**
14	Acts 28:1-31	30	Romans 7:1-13
15	**Acts 2:1-11**		
16	Ephesians 5:9-19		

BLE STUDY

After [illegible]ost, we change from the reading [illegible] Acts of the Apostles to the Epistle [illegible] Paul to the Romans. This letter is [illegible]ized as one of the great masterpieces of literature, both sacred and secular. It is addressed to the Christians living in Rome, which at that time was the center of the ancient world. It, together with the letter to the Hebrews, are the two books in the New Testament which are written as systematic accounts on theology, encouraging the people rather than correcting them.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul forcefully presents the entire scope of Christian doctrine, provides an authoritative theology and expresses the universality of the Gospel.

He gives a comprehensive interpretation of the Birth of Christ and His ministry and shows with convincing logic, supported by the Old Testament, that God made a radical break-through into the history of mankind by the life, death and Resurrection of His Son.

The dilemma of the human condition – its sinfulness – is met with a profound solution – the righteousness of God made real for the individual. Here he really gives an understanding of the Gospel. He interprets the life of Jesus as seen in the Gospels; and finally, it forms a bridge between the Acts of the Apostles and the rest of the New Testament.

Study the readings with this in mind.

* * * * * *

There are people who never turn to God, who do not pray, but suddenly it happens that they become melancholy, troubled; the heart is heavy and the man feels that no other human being can help him out of such a wretched state. Someone can listen to him, but will not understand his misery. And then the man turns to God with a heartfelt sigh, "Lord have mercy!" It seems that it is enough to utter the prayer once, "Lord have mercy!" but in church we say it three times, twelve, forty times. This is for those suffering souls who are unable to pronounce even, "Lord have mercy!" and so the Church says it for them. And the Lord hears and at first there comes a small measure of grace like the flame of a candle, and then more and more the soul feels relief.

–St. Nectarius of Optina, New-Confessor of the Communist Yoke (1928)

* * * * * *

The largest memorial museum in the world which is dedicated to a writer is the Alexander Pushkin Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.